



State of Illinois

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

File 144640

Mary A. Gade, Director

2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, IL 62794-9276

217/782-3392

January 6, 1994

Refer to: L1630200005 -- St. Clair County  
Sauget Sites (Area 1) -- Sauget  
Superfund/Compliance

Mr. Paul Sauget, Mayor  
Village of Sauget  
2897 Falling Springs Road  
Sauget, Illinois 62206

Dear Mr. Sauget:

Thank you for your letter dated November 17, 1993 concerning the recent flooding at Dead Creek.

IEPA sampled the surface water in Dead Creek beginning in late September of this year. This sampling event was in response to concerned residents of Cahokia as well as concerns expressed by both you and Mayor King of Cahokia. Our samples indicated that contaminants present in the water do not pose an immediate threat to residents living near the creek, but that the levels of iron and lead in creek water are above the State's water quality standards for those compounds. More recent sampling results have shown that in addition to these compounds, phenolics are now also above state standards. The origin of these phenolics in the creek water can be attributed to the landfill just west of Dead Creek along Queeny Avenue. As these three compounds are above state water quality standards, it is IEPA's interpretation that concentrations of these compounds can be hazardous to aquatic life in the creek.

In addition to this surface water sampling, both IEPA and Monsanto Company have conducted sediment and soil sampling in Dead Creek. The segment of Dead Creek that is fenced from Judith Lane to Queeny Avenue was found to contain very high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in creek sediments.

IEPA has no formal record of how the culvert beneath Judith Lane came to be blocked. In addition, it is not presently clear what governmental unit or private party actually ordered or carried out this blocking action. This Agency agrees, nevertheless that the blockage of the culvert has effectively prevented the spread of contaminated sediment within Dead Creek south of Judith. Given the fact that PCB concentrations in creek sediments are considerably higher north of Judith makes the action seem prudent today.

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It is IEPA's position that the removal of this blockage would cause the migration of PCB-contaminated sediments from the fenced portions of Dead Creek to residential areas of Cahokia, thereby creating a potentially serious health problem. We agree that something needs to be done about the flooding; however, your proposal that the culvert be unblocked does not appear to be a viable option given the water and sediment sample results from Dead Creek.

Recent sampling results indicate that the stormwater in the creek would have to undergo treatment before it is discharged. The most logical solution would be to have the stormwaters from the fenced portions of Dead Creek pumped to the American Bottoms Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment. A request will be made for USEPA to fund this project since State funding is not available. USEPA will perform cost recovery on potentially responsible parties or PRPs (current and former landowners, transporters and generators, etc.) it identifies as having association with discharges to Dead Creek to recover its costs. In addition, it is probable that PRPs associated with the landfill on Queeny Road to the west of the creek would be sought, since that landfill is responsible for many of the contaminants that have appeared in the surface waters of Dead Creek between Judith Lane and Queeny Avenue.

Sincerely,

*Mary A. Gade*

Mary A. Gade  
Director

cc: Mayor King, Cahokia

bcc: Paul Takacs  
Division File

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